(c) An Inter-State Trade Council has been established, with the objective of recommending measures to provide a trade-enabling environment in the States and to create a framework for making States partners in India's international trade and export effort. In order to encourage State Governments to actively participate in promoting exports, various schemes have been formulated. Under the ASIDE Scheme, Department of Commerce makes allocation of funds to the States on the twin criteria of gross exports and the rate of growth of exports. The States are required to utilize this amount of developing infrastructure such as roads connecting production centres with the ports, setting up of Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and other developmental activities as mentioned in the Foreign Trade Policy. Financial assistance is also available for medium term export promotion efforts to the agencies of the State Governments under the Market Access initiative (MAI) Scheme. In addition, selected towns producing goods of Rs. 1000 crores and more in any sector (other than Handloom, Handicraft, Agriculture and Fisheries Sector for which the threshold limit is only Rs. 250 crore), are entitled for funds under both ASIDE as well as MAI Schemes, and the common service providers in these areas are entitled for the facility of the EPCG Scheme.

(d) An export target of US $ 92 billion was fixed for the year 2005-06. A target of US $ 120 billion has been set for 2006-07.

Development of textile and apparel production centres

*473. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to develop 25 textile and apparel production centres in the country;

(b) if so, by when these centres would be built and the locations thereof;

(c) what would be the functions of these centres;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government propose to merge the two existing schemes, Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and Apparel Parks for Exports (APE); and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) To provide the domestic textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units, Government has launched the 'Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks (SITP). The scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP). Industry Associations/Group of Entrepreneurs would be the main promoters of the Integrated Textile Parks. The Scheme envisages development of 25 Integrated Textile Parks during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(b) So far nine (09) projects have been approved by the Project Approval Committee (PAC) of the Scheme. Details of these projects, *inter alia,* including location, project cost, completion period are as under:—

(In crore Rupees)

Sl.	Name/Location No.	Completion target	Estimated project cost	Estimated Government of India Assistance
1.	Gujarat Eco Textiles Park, Surat, Gujarat	May, 2007	114.00	40.00
2.	Metro Hi Tech Co-operative Park, Kohlapur, Maharashtra	Feb, 2007	83.90	33.55
3.	SIMA Textile Processing Centre, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu	May, 2007	120.00	40.00
4.	Jaipur Texweaving Park, Silora, Kisangarh, Rajasthan	March, 2007	96.81	38.72
5.	Mundra SEZ Textile and Apparel Park, Gujarat	July, 2007	127.90	40.00
6.	The Great Indian Linen & Textile Infrastructure Company, Perundurai, Tamil Nadu	July, 2007	149.45	40.00
7.	Pride India Cooperative Textile Park, Ichalkaranji, Maharashtra	July,2007	36.77	14.71
8.	Wada HiTech Weaving Park, Thane, Maharashtra	July, 2007	100.89	40.00
9.	Palladam HiTech Weaving Park, Palladam, Tamil Nadu	June 2006	43.35	17.34
	Tofly.:		873.07	304.32

(c) The Integrated Textile Parks would, *interalia,* provide modernized weavtng/knitting/processing/garmenting facilities of international standards so as to make Indian textiles competitive in international markets.

(d) The Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP) has been launched by merging the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) and the Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme (APES).

(e) The main reasons for merger of the TCIDS and APES, *inter alia,* include:—

- Lack of progress in implementation of approved projects.
- Since the structure of the scheme depended heavily on the initiative and resources of State Governments, projects could not be formulated in certain crucialclusters whereas there have been quite a few proposals from relatively unimportant clusters.
- In many cases, there was no involvement of the industry at the planning and implementation stages.
- Shortage of resources with the State Governments to provide advance money as required under the scheme.
- Protracted delays in acquisition/purchase of land.
- Funding was totally based on Government of lndia subsidy; virtually no effort was made for leveraging of market funds to address the infrastructure needs comprehensively.

Contribution to EPF

†*474. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many industrial institutions and firms are facing criminal charges on account of not making payment of employee's contribution to the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details of such firms and institutions together with the amount not subsribed by them;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.